مجلس الاسلامی
Islamic Council

30 December 1994

Honourable Benazir Bhutto
Prime Minister of Pakistan

Honourable Prime Minister,

Assalaam Alaikum wa Rahmatullah wa Barakatuhu.

Some media reports about an impending visit to Pakistan by the American Secretary for Defence, Mr William Perry, impel me to express the widely-felt concern that this visit might be another American ploy to persuade Pakistan to abandon its nuclear research and development programme.

It was only last March that the Americans reopened their bid, in the guise of a diplomatic initiative to defuse tensions in the Indo-Pakistan sub-continent, in the name of a proposed Asian Security Pact.

I am conscious, Prime Minister, that you more than anyone else are aware of the importance of Pakistan's nuclear programme and its success, not only as a deterrent to India's designs against Pakistan, but also as a shield of hope for the survival of Muslims at large.

Impelled by my love as a Muslim for the welfare of the Pakistani people and my wish for the strengthening of Pakistan's security, I stress my fervent hope that Pakistan's progress in its nuclear programme will never be allowed to be deferred by any blandishment or threat from any quarter, and that it may remain the sheet anchor of hope to deter the ambitions of Pakistan's enemies.

The people of Pakistan, and Muslims the world over, will be proud that the First Lady of Pakistan stood resolutely and courageously against very strong pressure from the USA to uphold the independence of Pakistan to maintain its right of self-defence for its security, for freedom and dignity are of prime importance to the people of Pakistan.

May Allah guide you to success in the cause of Islam and the Muslim Ummah.

With every good wish for the New Year,

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam

Salem Azzam
Secretary General

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